

REMARKS

This Amendment and accompanying Request for Continued Examination are submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed May 18, 2004, with a shortened statutory response period ending on August 18, 2004. This response is filed within the statutory response period. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account number 02-1818.

Claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 2nd paragraph as the recitation "by directing a gas from a gas applicator toward and across a surface of the film and flowing particles removed from the surface and the gas out through a nozzle juxtaposed the gas applicator such that the film is not touched" was alleged to be unclear. This recitation has been amended to more clearly articulate the subject matter of the present invention. Support for this amendment may be found at page 4 line 24 through page 5 line 6 and FIG. 2C of the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment does not narrow the scope of the claims or surrender any claimed subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the §112 rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 16-17, 24, 27, 30-32, 34 and 36-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,656,813 to Baldini et al. (*Baldini*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,396,582 to Koderer (*Koderer*). Claims 18-20, 28-29 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baldini* in view of *Koderer* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,129,212 to Duffey et al. (*Duffey*). Claims 21-22 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baldini* in view of *Koderer* and *Duffey* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,451,403 to Madsen (*Madsen*). Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baldini* in view of *Koderer* and further in view of British Patent No. GB 2142282 to Ogata (*Ogata*). Claims 25-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baldini* in view of *Koderer* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,587,793 to Brennan et al. (*Brennan*). Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Baldini* in view of *Koderer* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,934,043 to Aindow et al. (*Aindow*). Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses these rejections.

Baldini and *Kodera*, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a method of forming plastic containers that includes directing a gas onto the film to remove impurities therefrom and subsequently carrying away the impurities with an inflow nozzle juxtaposed the gas applicator to dry clean the film without contacting the film as recited in claims 16 and 34, for example. *Baldini* has no disclosure whatsoever directed to a method of dry cleaning a film. Rather, *Baldini* discloses a wet cleaning method as the *Baldini* method sprays the plastic film with water. *Baldini*, col. 1 lines 40-45. col. 2 lines 45-50.

Similarly, *Koldera* has no disclosure for a method of forming plastic containers that includes dry cleaning the film by directing a gas across the film surface and carrying impurities away from the film with an inflow nozzle. Rather, *Koldera* discloses passing the film through a dust remover that physically contacts the film with brushes to remove dust therefrom and subsequently removes the dislodged dust from the film with suction from a vacuum source. *Koldera*, col. 12 lines 49-58, FIG. 6. Consequently, *Koldera* does not disclose directing a gas onto the film to remove impurities therefrom and subsequently carrying away the impurities with an inflow nozzle as recited in the present claims.

As to *Duffy*, *Madsen*, *Ogata*, *Brennan* and *Aindow*, Applicant respectfully submits that these references do not remedy the deficiencies of *Baldini* and *Kodera*.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance and requests early indication of same.

Respectfully submitted,

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